WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for restricting event subscriptions, wherein each event subscription subscribes to an event maintained by an event server, the method comprising:

5   receiving, at a proxy associated with the event server from a network entity, a subscription message subscribing to the event;

determining whether the network entity is an authorized subscriber; and

forwarding the subscription message to the event server if the network entity is an authorized subscriber.

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2.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein determining whether the network entity is an authorized subscriber comprises checking for a match of the network entity in a list of authorized subscribers, and wherein forwarding the subscription message comprises forwarding the subscription message if a match is located.

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3.   A method according to Claim 2, wherein checking for a match comprises checking for a match of a uniform resource identifier (URI) associated with the network entity with at least a partial URI in the list of authorized subscribers.

20   4.   A method according to Claim 3, wherein the subscription message includes at least one of an event package description and an event type description, and wherein checking for a match further comprises checking for a match of at least one of the at least one of the event package description and the event type description in the subscription message with at least one of an event package description and an event type 25   description associated with the at least a partial URI in the list of authorized subscribers.

5.   A method according to Claim 1 further comprising sending a list of authorized subscribers to the proxy before receiving the subscription message, wherein the list of authorized subscribers identifies the event server and at least one authorized 30   subscriber, and wherein at least one authorized subscriber is identified by at least one of a uniform resource identifier (URI) associated with the at least one authorized subscriber,

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an event package description associated with a subscription message, and an event type description associated with a subscription message.

6.   A method according to Claim 1 further comprising confirming reception of the subscription message, from the event server to the network entity, if a match is located and the subscription message is forwarded to the event server.

7.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein receiving a subscription message comprises receiving, at a session initiation protocol (SIP) proxy, a subscription message comprising a SIP SUBSCRIBE message, and wherein forwarding the subscription message comprises forwarding the SIP SUBSCRIBE message to the event server comprising a SIP event server.

8.   A system for restricting event subscriptions, the system comprising:
        an event server capable of maintaining at least one event;
        a network entity capable of sending a subscription message subscribing to the event;
        a proxy associated with the event server, and coupled between the event server and the network entity, wherein the proxy is capable of receiving the subscription message; and
        a filter capable of receiving the subscription message from the proxy, and thereafter determining whether the network entity is an authorized subscriber, wherein the proxy is capable of forwarding the subscription message to the event server if the network entity is an authorized subscriber.

9.   A system according to Claim 8, wherein the filter is capable of storing a list of authorized subscribers, wherein the filter is capable of determining whether the network entity is an authorized subscriber by checking for a match of the network entity in the list of authorized subscribers, and wherein the proxy is capable of forwarding the subscription message if a match is located.

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10.   A system according to Claim 9, wherein the network entity has an associated uniform resource identifier (URI), and wherein the filter is capable of checking for a match of the URI associated with the network entity with at least a partial URI in the list of authorized subscribers.

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11.   A system according to Claim 10, wherein the subscription message includes at least one of an event package description and an event type description, and wherein the filter is capable of checking for a match by further checking for a match of at least one of the at least one of the event package description and the event type

10   description in the subscription message with at least one of an event package description and an event type description associated with the at least a partial URI in the list of authorized subscribers.

12.   A system according to Claim 8, wherein the event server is capable of

15   sending a list of authorized subscribers to the filter before the proxy receives the subscription message, wherein the list of authorized subscribers identifies the event server and at least one authorized subscriber, and wherein at least one authorized subscriber is identified by at least one of a uniform resource identifier (URI) associated with the at least one authorized subscriber, an event package description associated with a

20   subscription message, and an event type description associated with a subscription message.

13.   A system according to Claim 8, wherein the event server is capable of confirming reception of the subscription message if a match is located and the proxy

25   forwards the subscription message to the event server.

14.   A system according to Claim 8, wherein the event server comprises a session initiation protocol (SIP) server, wherein the proxy comprises a SIP proxy, and wherein the subscription message comprises a SIP SUBSCRIBE message.

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15.   A filter for restricting event subscriptions, wherein each event subscription subscribes to an event maintained by an event server, the filter comprising:

a database capable of storing a list of authorized subscribers;

a processor capable of receiving, from a proxy associated with the event server, a

5   subscription message from a network entity subscribing to the event, wherein the processor is capable of determining whether the network entity is an authorized subscriber based upon the list of authorized subscribers, and wherein the processor is capable of indicating to the proxy whether the network entity is an authorized subscriber such that the proxy can forward the subscription message to the event server if the

10   network entity is an authorized subscriber.

16.   A filter according to Claim 15, wherein the processor is capable of determining whether the network entity is an authorized subscriber by checking for a match of the network entity in a list of authorized subscribers, and wherein the processor

15   is capable of indicating to the proxy whether the network entity is an authorized subscriber such that the proxy can forward the subscription message to the event server if a match is located.

17.   A filter according to Claim 16, wherein the processor is capable of

20   checking for a match of a uniform resource identifier (URI) associated with the network entity with at least a partial URI in the list of authorized subscribers.

18.   A filter according to Claim 15, wherein the subscription message includes at least one of an event package description and an event type description, and wherein

25   the processor is capable of checking for a match by further checking for a match of at least one of the at least one of the event package description and the event type description in the subscription message with at least one of an event package description and an event type description associated with the at least a partial URI in the list of authorized subscribers.

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19.   A filter according to Claim 15, wherein the processor is capable of receiving the list of authorized subscribers, and thereafter storing the list of authorized subscribers in the database, wherein the list of authorized subscribers identifies the event server and at least one authorized subscriber, and wherein at least one authorized subscriber is identified by at least one of a uniform resource identifier (URI) associated with the at least one authorized subscriber, an event package description associated with a subscription message, and an event type description associated with a subscription message.

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